

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An icon for graphic visualization of task-oriented steps in industrial control processes, the icon comprising at least one graphic symbol and at least one placeholder, wherein a size of the placeholder is representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step.
2. The icon of claim 1, wherein the placeholder comprises at least one of a frame, a line and an arrow.
3. The icon of claim 1, wherein the icon displays an actual state of a task-oriented process step as at least one of a change in color, size and type of the at least one graphic symbol and a change in a line thickness and a line type of the placeholder.
4. Use of the icon of claim 1 for graphic visualization of the task-oriented process steps of parts programs in machine tools or production machines.
5. A method for graphic visualization of task-oriented steps of parts programs in machine tools or production machines with icons, wherein the icons are arranged in form of rows and columns and each icon graphically visualizes an individual task-oriented step of a parts program, wherein each row is

associated with a particular parts program and a column width of an icon in said row represents a duration of the task-oriented process step for said parts program, or alternatively, each column is associated with a particular parts program and a row width of an icon in said column represents a duration of the task-oriented process step for said parts program.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the icons comprise at least one graphic symbol and at least one placeholder, wherein a size of the placeholder is representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the placeholder comprises at least one of a frame, a line and an arrow.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein through selection of an icon by a user, the corresponding parts program associated with the row or column is indicated in ASCII code or as a step visualization.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein the duration of a task-oriented process step is referenced to a common time axis.
10. The method of claim 5, wherein the icons are displayed in a normalized or synchronized form.

11. The method of claim 5, wherein a mutual dependency of the parts programs is visualized by synchronization lines that connect the icons across different parts programs.
12. The method of claim 5, wherein the duration of a task-oriented process step is indicated in form of numerical values.